433 opportunities within the Kingdom, and will help
47 Tonga to become as economically self-sufficient as
179 possible. Meanwhile, with a modest budget, she is
657 also striving to improve educational and medical facilities and domestic social conditions.

Internal air-service is now functioning within the
509 Kingdom, and plans for an airstrip to land
[508] international jets are being materialized; Tonga also intends to establish her own airline, called "Friendly
[505] Islands Air." These things, in addition to expanding international and local cargo and passenger shipping
[131] services, will hopefully serve to improve Tonga's communications and relations with the world, and

[A 55-A]

39: Gerstle & Raitt C,Q-4,5 (1952-1972)
1974 OU9 Tonga OU9

509 will facilitate travel to and from Tonga for residents and visitors.

505 131 179 [453] 179 648 The recent establishment of Tonga's first commercial bank, the "Bank of Tonga," with its modern banking and checking account system, loan service, and increased interest rates, is intended to further the economic growth of Tonga. Limited foreign aid is being received from New Zealand, U.K., Australia, U.S.A., Japan, Canada, India and other countries. But like all developing nations in the Pacific today, Tonga is concerned with *autonomous development*, and it is in this interest only – not to become the pawn of a major power – that she seeks

[p. 55-B]

[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 516]

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**Inter-island flights** within the kingdom are now possible. Besides the largest airport on Tongatapu, there is a smaller one in Vava'u *(below)*, one on 'Eua, and another to open soon in Ha'apai.

**Kuo lava eni ke puna vakapuna** e kakai ki he ngaahi feitu'u kehekehe 'o Tonga. 'Oku 'i ai e mala'e vakapuna 'i Fua'amotu, taha 'i Vava'u *(ta 'i lalo)*, taha 'i 'Eua, pea 'oku fakaangaanga e taha ki Ha'apai.

[G.55.C]

39: Gerstle & Raitt C,Q-4,5 (1952-1972) 1974 OU9 Tonga OU9